

A couple of weeks ago we looked at the various metaphors found within Scripture to describe the church. We did this to help us gain a greater appreciation of the church. We cannot rightly appreciate all that God has done for us if we do not have an appreciation for the church.

Today, we continue to look at the church and the blessing that it is in our lives. This time we turn to the book of Hebrews to find some words of exhortation and encouragement.

Scripture: Hebrews 10:24- 13:

I. **Appreciation for the Church (part 2)**

A. **Love (10:24-25, 32-39)**

1. **Concern for one another**

a) **Sympathy (34)**

(1) **Companionship with one another(33)**

(2) **Commitment to one another (34)**

(3) **Confidence in God (35)**

2. **Cheering for one another**

a) **Encouraging one another(25)**

b) **Enduring together (36)**

c) **Exhortating one another(39)**

B. **Legacy (11)**

1. **Our heritage (2)**

a) **Faith in God**

(1) **Abel - faithful sacrifice**

(2) **Enoch - faithful living**

(3) **Abraham - faithful following**

(a) **Land**

(b) **Lineage**

(4) **Sarah - faithful believing**

(5) **Moses - faithful allegiance**

(a) **God's people**

(b) **God's precepts**

(6) **Israel - faithful obedience**

(a) **Jericho**

(7) **Rahab - faithful recognition**

(8) **Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David Samuel, and the prophets - faithful leadership**

C. **Labors (10:24; 12:1-2)**

1. **Striving for Good works together**

2. **Setting aside sin together**

3. **Staying focused on Jesus together**

D. **Learning (12:3-13)**

1. Disciplined together and disciplining one another
 - a) Hardships
 - b) Hard love (16)
 2. Instructing one another
 - a) Pursue peace with each other (14)
 - b) Holding on to grace together (28)
 - c) Loving one another (13:1)
- E. **Leadership** (13:7, 17)
1. Listen to them
 2. Observe their lives
 3. Obey their teaching (17)
 4. Imitate their FAITH

I firmly believe that one aspect of being made in the image of God is being relational. As human beings, we crave relationships. Our first relationships are with our family. Sometimes those relationships are good, sometimes they are bad. We then develop relationships with others called friendships. Next we begin to look for that special relationship that has been ordained by God as marriage.

For those who cease to resist God's gracious call we enter into relationships with other believers and become part of the church. Just as we are not made to be alone in life, we are not made to be alone in the Christian life. We need the love, learning, and leadership that only the church can provide if we are to live up to the legacy which we have inherited.

So, celebrate the God's gracious gift of the church. If you are committed to a local church, remain committed. If you are not committed to a local church, you need to find one to join.

Our invitation is your opportunity to make that commitment or recommitment.